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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6916**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1328

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 14, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Testing of Special Education Students.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Reske

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill allows a student who is a child with a disability to: (1) participate in the ISTEP test; or (2) participate in an alternate assessment as determined by the student's case conference committee. The bill provides that the case conference committee for a student who is a child with a disability may determine that the student is eligible to graduate if the student: (1) passes an appropriate alternative assessment; (2) maintains at least a 95% attendance rate; (3) maintains a "C" average; and (4) satisfies all other nonacademic state and local graduation requirements. The bill provides that a student who is a child with a disability may receive a certificate of completion if the student completes the goals set out in the student's individualized education program (IEP).

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary-* The impact of this provision on local expenditures is currently indeterminable and would depend on the appropriate alternative assessment chosen by school corporations. School corporations (via case conference committees for students with disabilities) would have additional flexibility in deciding whether students with disabilities could be awarded a high school diploma that is based on passage of either the ISTEP, an appropriate alternate assessment, or to receive a certificate of completion if the student opts out of testing completely but completes the goals established by the student's individual educational program.

### *Background-*

*ISTAR:* The Department of Education currently offers ISTAR as an alternative to ISTEP. ISTAR may be given to students with disabilities at any grade level. However, ISTAR may be used on only 1% of special education students for AYP purposes. A student's case conference committee determines if the ISTAR may be used as an alternative assessment in place of ISTEP for students with "a documented significant cognitive disability." Students designated as limited English proficient are allowed to take the ISTAR. Currently, besides minimal software upgrade expenses, ISTAR is provided to schools by the Department of Education free of charge.

*Students with Disabilities:* Approximately 178,000 students with disabilities were enrolled in public schools during the 2006-2007 school year. The following table illustrates the aggregate performance of students with disabilities that took the graduation examination during the fall of 2007.

**Table A.** Special Education Graduation Examination Results.

Special Education Category	Total Tested English	Percent Passing English	Total Tested Math	Percent Passing Math
With Accommodations	9,261	18%	9,188	23%
Without Accommodations	1,226	39%	1,299	43%
Total	10,487	21%	10,487	26%

During school year 2006-2007, about 4,961 students with disabilities graduated with a diploma and 1,055 were awarded a certificate.

### **Explanation of Local Revenues:**

#### **State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education SAS AND ORACLE DATABASES; Department of Education: Wes Bruce, Student Assessment Division, Paul Ash, Division of Exceptional Learners. Department of Education website: [www.doe.state.in.us](http://www.doe.state.in.us).

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